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A

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR

OF THE

GILBERT FAMILY,

IN BOTH

OLD AND NEW ENGLAND.

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MDCCCL.

PREFACE.

This brief Memoir was suggested by the labors of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, whose life, genius, and estate were devoted to geographical discoveries, principally in North America. He was "The Father of Northern and North Western Colonization" in America; in attempting which he lost his life, leaving his opinions and example in possession of his disciple and brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, who perfected them, and thus became the Founder of Virginia. These men laid the foundation of the trade and naval power of Great Britain. Among the earliest colonists in Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine were the Gilberts, to whom these pages refer. It has been the design of the author merely to present a few general facts, which may be of service to future enquirers.

[50 copies printed.]

Boston, Aug. 10, 1850.

THE GILBERT FAMILY.*

There is an historical propriety in preserving, in New England, the memory of the services and name of Gilbert, as no one is more honorably or intimately connected with American discoveries, geography, and early history. It stands conspicuous among the illustrious names of Raleigh, Drake, Cavendish, Gosnold, Hawkins, and a host of naval worthies; and, with singular happiness, is joined with the first three named, in lineage, as well as in the less tangible but generous relationship of mind.

The name Gilbert is Saxon. Camden, in his "Remaines concerning Britaine," thus discourses upon its origin and signification. "Gilbert, *Germah*, I supposed heretofore to signifie Gold-like-bright, as *Aurelius* or *Aurelianus;* or yellow bright, as *Flavius* with the Romans. For *Geele* is yellow in old Saxon, and still in Dutch, as *Gilvus* according to some in Latine. But, because it is written in Dooms-day booke *Gislebert*, I judge it rather to signifie Bright or brave pledge; for in old Saxon, *Gisle* signifieth a pledge, and in the old English booke of *S. Augustines* of *Canterbury*, sureties and pledges for keeping the peace are called *Fredgisles*." It is written on the Roll of Battle Abbey, T. Gilbard. Richard Fitz Gilbert, a kinsman of the conqueror, and a principal personage, was, for his services, advanced to great honors and possessions. His son, Earl Pembroke, died 14 King Stephen, 1149, leaving a son, Richard Gilbert, surnamed Strong Bow. The Earls of Clare were of this lineage. Robertus de Gerebert was a *testis* to a deed of William de Vernon, Earl of Devon, to the church of Brumor, in the age of King John, 1199–1216. Gilbert de Thornton was "the King's Serjeant at Law," in 1281, and in 1290, chief justice of the King's Bench.

1060. Gilbert de Gaunt came with William the Conqueror.

1100. Gislebert was Archdeacon of Buckingham.

1115. Gilbert, of Saxon origin, was a citizen of London, joined in the Crusades, and was father of Thomas a Becket.

1148. Gilbert, Lord of Sempringham, Lincolnshire, founded the Order of Gilbertine friars.

1215. Gilbert, treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral.

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1240. Gilbert, Archdeacon of Stow.

1414. Robert Gilbert, S. T. P., Precentor of Lincoln — 1418, Prebend of Lincoln, and afterward Bishop of London.

1487. Thomas Gilbert, LL. D., Prebendary of Lincoln.

1492. Thomas Gilbert, Vicar-general of Chelsea College.

The name is eminent in the annals of the Church, State, and Learning of England, through several centuries. Its early and principal home is in Devonshire, and from this stock, distinguished in naval and commercial history and geographical science and discoveries, issued many branches, planted in other portions of the country. They possessed lands in Manaton,

* Special acknowledgement is due to Sylvester Judd, Esq., of Northampton, Hon. Saml. H. Parsons, Hon. R. R. Hinman, and J. Hammond Trumbull, Esq., of Hartford, and Hon. Francis Baylies, of Taunton, for their valuable communications

in or near Dartmoor, in Edward the Confessor's days, 1272–1307. Westcote, who was born in Shobrook, in Devonshire, in 1567, and wrote his history of that county in 1630, says that at Marledon, on the River Darte, "is a chapel built by the ancestors of the Gilberts, who have an ancient monument there; one of them lieth in the church, with his wife, their proportions cut into stone." He describes Greenway, the ancient seat of the Gilberts, as "very pleasantly and commodiously placed, with a most delightsome prospect to behold the barks and boats to pass and repass upon the river flowing from Dartmouth to Totnes. This hath long continued in a family of much estimation, the Gilberts alias Jilberts of knightly rank. It is very anciently written Gislebert, or Gerebert, as in the Conqueror's Book of Survey among the Tenures in Devon. Of this progeny have been divers of great desert and sufficiency."

Thomas, son of Jeffrey Gilbert, "married Jane, or Joan, daughter of William Compton of Compton, in the parish of Marldon, near the Torlay, who for her partage brought him Compton, in the days of King Edward II., 1307–1327." Prince, in his "Worthies of Devon," says that the Gilberts "have matched as they descended into honorable houses, as of Champernoon, Croker, Hill, Chudleigh, Agar, Molineux, Pomeroy, &c., and have yielded matches to others, in particular to the noble family of Grenviles. They have married also divers daughters and heirs, as Compton, Champernon, Valetort, (whereby they touch the blood royal,) Reynward, Trenoch, Littleton alias Westcott, Kelley and others from whose loins have proceeded many eminent persons which were of old men of renown. Such was Otho, called also Otis Gilbert, High Sheriff of Devonshire, 15 Edward IV." 1475–6.

Sir Humphry Gilbert, one of the most accomplished men of his day, devoted his early years to liberal studies, "computations astronomicall and cosmographicall, speculations in Alchemy," but especially to mathematics, as appeared by his subsequent life. He was "a man both valiant and well experienced in martial affaires." About 1570, he proposed to Queen Elizabeth a plan for a University in the metropolis, which has been edited recently by Sir H. Ellis, from a MS. in the British Museum. The famous astrologer, Dr. John Dee, entered in his Diary, November 6, 1577, that "Sir Umfrey Gilbert came to see me at Mortlake," curiously showing Gilbert's favorite science of numbers, leading his mind to the supposed occult influences of the stars — but all were believers then, and about four years after, June 17, 1581, Dr. Dee writes, "Young Mr. Hawkins who had byn with Sir Francis Drake came to me at Mortlake." Drake had returned from his famous voyage about nine months before, September 26, 1580, and "young Mr. Hawkins," was without doubt the embryo of Sir Richard Hawkins, whose history is well known. Queen Elizabeth also consulted Dr. Dee. In 1576, S. Humphrey published his learned and ingenious "Discourse to prove a passage by the North West to Cathaia and the East Indies."

The accompanying pedigree is made from the several accounts in Prince, Westcott, Polwhele, Hakluyt, Purchas, Hollingshed, and Gorges, and the manuscripts* in the Herald's College, which seem contradictory one to the other, and inconsistent with themselves; but a cautious collation of the dates and historical references exhibits the true lineage, stated in the tabular form, and, it is believed, reconciling the apparent discrepancies, as will appear by a careful study of the original authorities.

*Copies by Mr. H. G. Somerby, among the papers of the late Dr. Daniel Gilbert, of Boston.

ARMS.—Ar. on a chev. sa. three roses of the first. *Crest.*—A Dolphin, naivant embowed. Gilberts of Devonshire.—Guillim, London, 1726. Vol. 1, 254.

GILBERT of Compton, Parish of Marldon, Co. of Devon.

Thomas Gilbert = Amy

Jeffrey Gilbert. = Jane or Joan d. and coheir of Wm. Compton of Compton, Esq.

Wm. Gilbert of Compton = Elizth. d. & coh. of Oliver Champernon, Esq. by his wife Egelina d. of Hugh Valetort of Tamerton, Esq.

Wm. Gilbert of Compton = Isabel d. of Wm. Gambon of Moreston, Esq.

Otho or Otes Gilbert, Sheriff of Devon. 15 Edw. IV. 1475. = Elizth. d. to John [or Robert] Hill of Shilston in Modbury, Esq.

Sr. Edm. Baron Carew of Ottery, of the lineage of the noble Courtenays, Denhams, Erchdecons, Talbots, Bigods, &c. = Catharine d. & h. of Sr. Wm. Hudderfield of Shillingto.

* * * * = Sr. Philip [or Christopher] Champernon.

Elizth. Gilbert = Sr. Tho. Grenville of Stow in Kn't. | John Gilbert = Elizth. d. of Sr. John Crocker of Lynham, Knt. s. p. | Wm. Gilbert. | Oates Gilbert.

Wimond Raleigh sold Axminster = * * * * to John Gilbert.

Thomas Gilbert = Isabel d. & h. to John Reynward of Cornwall. of Compton, Esq. | Sr. John Chamond of Launcells in Cornwall, Kn't. 2d = Jane 1st = Ashley | Sr. John Arundell of Trerice in Cornwall, Kn't. | Roger Grenville. = S. John Arundell of Lanhern, Knight.

Joan d. of John Drake of Plimoth, bro. of Sr. Francis Drake, the famous Navigator. = Walter Ralegh of Fardell near Plymo. | Katharine, the "Governess" and confidant of Queen Elizabeth* wido. of Gilbert. 1st = Otho Gilbert. | Richard. | John. | Henry Fitzallen Earl of Arundell = 2d Mary 1st = Robert Radcliffe Earl of Essex.

1 John Ralegh = Ann, d. of Sr. Bartho. Fortescue. 2 George. | Elizth. d. to Sr. Nich's. Throgmorton Knight. = Sr. Walter Ralegh Kn't. Founder of Virginia, born 1552. *murdered* Oct. 29. 1618. = Carew Ralegh of Wiltshire, Knight. = d. of Sr. Wm. Wroughton.

Sr. John Gilbert = Elizth. d. to Sr. Rich. Chudleigh of Ashton, Knight. s. p. | Adrian Gilbert of Sandridge, Devon, Gent. Feb. 6, 1583. afterward knighted. | Katherine = Geo. s. & to Walter Ralegh of Fardell by a 2d wife. | Lord Lumley = 2d * * * 1st. = Duke of Norfolk. | Sr. Humphrey Gilbert = Anne, d. to Sr. Anthony Ayer of Agyer of Kent. "that high attempting spirit & skilful mathematician and hydrographer. born 1539. Lost in the "Squirrel" Feb. 6. 1583.

Knt. Cust. Rot. Dev. † Knighted by queen E. 1570.

Walter Raleigh slain in Guiana, Jan. 2., 1618.
"a brave and sprightly young man fonder of glory than of safety."

Raughley Gilbert = Elizth. d. & heir of Jo. Kelley in Devon. of Compton, living Anno 1620.

9 sons in all. | Humfrey Gilbert, æt. 5, 1620. | Raley, æt. 3, 1620. | Ayer, æt. 3, 1620. | Ferdinand, æt. 2, in 1620. | Amey, æt. 1½ years, in 1620. | John Gilbert,‡ = d. of Sr. Richard Molyneux of Sefton.

* Sr. FERDINANDO GORGES, the FOUNDER OF MAINE, was of this family. His nephew Francis Champernon came over and died here at Kittery, Maine.

† "1608. The Worshipful Knight, Sir John Gilberd. ended his life 5th July and was brought from London to his mansion House at Compton 16th of the same month and buried in Marldon Church 19 July."—*Marldon Reg.* He practiced arms agreable to the brave spirit of his ancestors: Was held an Expert and ancient soldier even in *his younger years wherein he expired:* was taken away when he gave not only hope but full assurance of great sufficiency to do his prince and country service." Sir John and his younger brother Capt. Rawley Gilbert were "nephews" of Sir Humphrey and Sir Walter, but by which of their brothers is not certainly ascertained.

‡ From Compton many stems of the old stock branched off — for instance, about 1604, John Gilbert left Compton and settled at Blechington, County of Essex — in 1609 to John Gilbert of Woodford, Essex, were confirmed these *Arms.* Ar. on a chev. betw. three leopard's faces sa. as many roses or.

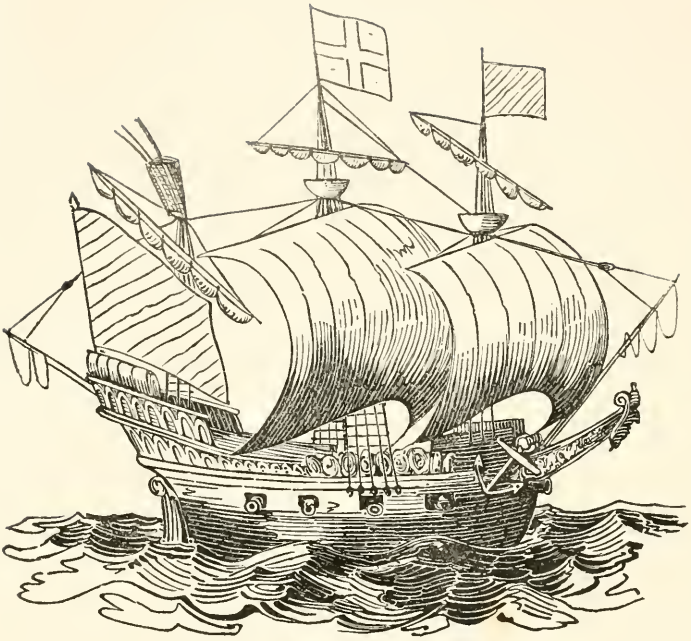
Queen Elizabeth's governess, Mrs. Kate Ashley, to whom she was fondly attached, exercised the most remarkable influence over the mind of her royal pupil from her earliest years. She was aunt to Sir Humphrey Gilbert, to whom Sir Walter Raleigh was uterine brother, and was married to a relative of Anne Boleyn, the queen's unfortunate mother. Queen Elizabeth placed her chief favor and confidence in her maternal kindred to the end of her life, and Mrs. Ashley's powerful influence was of great advantage to her nephews.

The Rev. Dr. Holmes,* following modern writers, says of Sir Walter Raleigh, "one of the greatest and most accomplished persons of the age in which he lived," that "he was *the first Englishman who projected settlements in America*, and is justly considered the founder of Virginia. To him, and to Sir Humphrey Gilbert, is ascribed the honor of laying the foundation of the trade and naval power of Great Britain;" but a little observation will prove Gilbert's superior title to that distinction, and that Sir Walter was merely his executor. He was thirteen years the senior of Raleigh. The brothers, Sir Humphrey, Sir John, Sir Adrian, and Sir Walter, a goodly company, in youth dwelling under one roof, with congeniality of spirit in their grand and ambitious views, pursued their studies with the enthusiasm of great minds; guided by the genius of Sir Humphrey, in after life, each gave form and action to the thoughts, or rather the thought, which won for them a lasting fame, and has peopled North America with the Anglo-Saxon race. Where can be found a nobler brotherhood? and, with truth, Sir Francis Drake may be added to the family circle at Compton, as their relative.

June 11, 1578, Queen Elizabeth granted letters patent to Sir Humphrey to discover and take possession of all remote and barbarous lands, unoccupied by any Christian prince or people, "for himself and his heirs forever," and soon after, with a fleet of "ten sailes of all sorts of shipping, well and sufficiently furnished for such an enterprise, weighed anchor in the west country and set to sea," upon this first adventure, "having in his companie his two brethren, Walter and Carey Rawley," but returned unsuccessful. Walter, with characteristic ambition, withdrew from the command of the Admiral to accomplish something "worthie of honor," but he too returned, after a disastrous voyage, without success.

Just five years after the date of his patent, June 11, 1583, they again sailed from Plymouth, under the auspices of Sir. Geo. Peckam, the chief adventurer and furtherer of the expedition. Sir Humphrey, the admiral of the fleet, was in the "Delight," of 120 tons, of which William Winter was captain, and part owner, and Richard Clarke, master. Sir Walter, his Vice-Admiral, was obliged to return on account of a contagious sickness on board his bark, which he had built, victualled, and manned at his own expense. On the 5th August, Sir Humphrey took seizen of New Foundland, and the adjacent territories, for the crown of England, by "the ancient ceremony of cutting turf or rod," and his first act was to establish publick worship according to the Church of England. "Edward Haies, gentleman and principal actour" therein, made "A Report of the voyage, and successe thereof, attempted in the yeare of our Lord 1583, by Sir *Humfrey Gilbert*, knight, with other gentlemen assisting him in that action, *intended to discover and to plant Christian inhabitants* in place convenient, upon those large and ample countreys extended northward from the cape of Florida lying under very temperate climes, esteemed fertile and rich in minerals, yet not

* *Annals of America*, Vol. I. p. 155.



A fac-simile of a print of an armed Ship of the time of Queen Elizabeth, taken from a treatise on "Nauigation, late collected out of the best Modern writers thereof, by Mr. Blundiuile," published in 1595,—a correct resemblance of the vessels navigated by Sir Humphry Gilbert, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake, and the other early Discoverers and Colonizers of America.

in the actual possession of any Christian prince." The admiral selected the "frigat Squirrel,"* of ten tons, the better to survey the coast. When last seen, he was seated in the stern of his little "frigat," with an open book, and was heard by the people in the "Hind," to say, "We are as near heaven by sea as by land;" and on that night, the 9th of September, 1583, in a violent storm, "the lights of his ship suddenly disappeared," the vessel foundered, and Sir Humphrey was lost. Thus abruptly was terminated his career, glorious in its inception; he was fortunate in leaving an intimate and thorough knowledge of his designs with his brother, Sir Walter, who, soon after, March 25, 1584, obtained from Queen Elizabeth a virtual renewal of Sir Humphrey's Patent, with all its ample prerogatives, fully developed his plans, and became the founder of Virginia.

Sir Humphrey *projected* and Sir Walter survived to *accomplish* "his noble attempt to possess and people the remote countries of America."

"And now behold the infinite goodness of our God, who even from evil deriveth good; for out of these crosses, turmoils, and afflictions he hath caused to grow the fruit we already see: and much more we are to hope for in New England, Virginia, and the New Foundland."

Meanwhile, Sir Adrian Gilbert, who had at one time "wrought" silver mines at Combemartin, in Devonshire, in 1583, the year of his brother's death, obtained from Queen Elizabeth a Patent for the discovery of a North-west passage to China, to remain in force five years, by the title of "The Colleagues of the Fellowship for the Discovery of the North-west Passage;" but they accomplished nothing worthy of note.

Bartholomew Gilbert sailed from Plymouth May 10, 1603, in the bark Elizabeth, of 50 tons, for further discovery, and to search for the lost colony of Sir Walter Ralegh, which ended in his death, July 29, being "killed by the savages in the wood." He was probably a nephew of Sir Humphrey.

We now approach more immediately to our own time and shores, and in 1607 find Sir John and Capt. Ralegh Gilbert, perseveringly engaged in their hereditary scheme of peopling America with Englishmen. Holmes relates that Sir John Popham and others sent out two ships under the command of George Popham and Raleigh Gilbert, with 100 men, with ordnance and all provisions necessary until they might receive further supplies. They sailed from Plymouth about the last of May, and, falling in with the land of Monhigon on the 11th of August, encamped on an island at the mouth of the Sagadahock, or Kennebeck River, on the coast of Maine. Here, after a sermon was delivered, and their patent and laws were read, they built and fortified a store-house, which they named Fort St. George. On the 5th of December the two ships sailed for England, leaving a colony of 45 persons, Popham being president, and Gilbert, admiral. The death of Ch. J. Popham depressed the colonists; but, says, Gorges "when [July 5, 1608,] they heard of the death of Sir John Gilbert, elder brother of Rawley Gilbert, that was then their president, a man worthy to be beloved of them all, for his industry

*I have made considerable research to ascertain the size of the early ships, and though there was no definite mode of tonnage, their estimates of size agree substantially with the modern calculation. In Wingate's *Abr*, 514, 39th Elizabeth, is a statute respecting "Ships with cross-sails," as to "customs," showing a want of any more definite description than could be given by the *tackle* of the ship, though the same statute refers to levying a duty of "50 Soulz per Tun." In Derick's *Memoirs of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Navy*, 1806, 4°. 59-61, he gives a table of 50 ships existing in 1633, and says this is "the earliest List of the Navy I have met with wherein any of the ships' principal dimensions are inserted, and "the first list in which *any nice regard appears to have been paid to the tonnage of the ships*. Previous to 1633, the tonnage of almost "every ship seems to have been rather estimated than calculated, being inserted in even numbers."

and care for their well-being," they unanimously resolved to return to England, and thus ended another fruitless experiment. Says Capt. John Smith, this colony found "nothing but extreme extremities." "During the long winter, and the after time of their abode there, they built a bark, which afforded them some advantage in their return;" probably the first vessel built on these shores.*

To what extent these enterprises, of such "great pith and moment," nurtured chiefly by Devonshire, for more than half a century, influenced that and the West country, can only be conjectured; but the generous contributions of Devonshire, to the New England Colonies, may be safely attributed, in a degree, to their locality, and the spirit of colonization begotten among them by the GILBERTS and their associates; and it is natural, therefore, that we find so many of the good old West of England families among the earliest emigrants to our shores, the Vaughans, Tristrams, Waldron, Bonython, Coffin, Conant, Crocker, Edgecomb, Heale, Goodyear, Ridgway, Cammock, Booth, Jordan, Cary, Gee, Champernoon.† Nor are we disappointed in our search among them for the names most prominent among the early voyagers, as Gilbert, Drake, Hawkins, Winter, etc., so many historical ties between Old and New England. They settled chiefly in Maine, where, as late as 1673, a newly organized county was named DEVONSHIRE, a token of honor and filial affection for the birthplace of their fathers, few of whom could be then living. The GILBERTS, at various dates, came to Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia. Richard Gilbert, "remained one whole year in Virginia," in 1585. Joseph Gilbert, as early as 1645. "Will[m]. Gylbert was admitted a freeman at Wyndsor, in Connecticut, in 1640. Robert Gilbert was a passenger in the 'Plaine Joan' for Virginia, in 1635." "A grave honest gentleman," Mr. JOHN GILBERT, was at Dorchester, as early as 1636, and had sons John, Thomas, and Giles, of whom we have a few particulars. About 1640, four brothers, JONATHAN, Thomas, Obadiah, and Josiah GILBERT were living in Connecticut.‡

THOMAS GILBERT, previously at Windsor, had a grant of land in Springfield Jan. 30, 1655, and at Fresh Water Brook, [Enfield,] Feb. 12, 1660. He m. July 31, 1655, *Catharine Bliss*, widow of Nathaniel Bliss, of Springfield, and son of Thomas of Hartford, and March 23, 1656, was admitted a freeman in Springfield. His widow m. Dec. 28, 1664, Samuel Marshfield, by whom she had four children; — her son, *Josiah Marshfield*, m. *Rachel* d.

* *Wescott*, in 1630, wrote of Devonshire, "our havens are well replenished with shipping fit for war or peace; and them employed in merchants' affairs, or in fishing voyages, upon our own coasts, and elsewhere in many fair and remote countries, as Canada, Virginia, Newfoundland, and other regions, whence much fish is brought home." "Of our mariners, the whole world brings forth no better; whether you will impress them for valour to adventure or knowledge to perform any action, painfulness to undergo, or patience to endure any extremity, adversity, or want whatsoever." pp. 67–68.

† Francis Champernoon was a nephew of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the Founder of Maine, and a relative of the mother of the Gilberts and Raleighs. He resided in Kittery, and died there, on his estate, then known as Champernoon's Island, and since as Cutt's Island. He married into the Cutts family, of Essex and Cambridgeshire. His grave, in the family burial-place, on the Island, remains well defined by an oblong pile of stones, carefully replaced within a few years.

‡ In 1685, there was a controversy about a farm on the east side of the river at Weathersfield, (now Glastenbury,) and *Josiah Gilbert's* testimony was obtained in regard to the boundaries of this farm, which once belonged to John Hollister. Josiah Gilbert stated that he lived on this farm, as a tenant, I think, 12 years, and that his brothers, John and Jonathan Gilbert, were concerned with him some of these years. He was on this farm in 1651, but does not state where the 12 years began or ended. The deposition is in a volume labelled "Private Controversies," in the State House at Hartford. Here are 3 brothers, and Obadiah is the fourth.

of *Jonathan and Mary Gilbert;* — her d. *Margaret Marshfield* m. *Ebenezer Parsons*, and was the mother of Rev. Jonathan Parsons, of Newburyport, ancestor of Hon. S. H. Parsons.

Thomas Gilbert, of Springfield, probably son of Thomas and Catharine of the same place, m. Abilene, d. of Samuel Marshfield, Aug. 15, 1680.

Obadiah Gilbert settled in Fairfield, and made his will in Aug. 1674; and mentions sons Obadiah, Benjamin, Joseph, one daughter, and his wife, and makes his *brothers*, Jonathan and Josiah Gilbert, overseers of his will.

Captain John Gilbert, brother of Jonathan, of Hartford, m. Amy, daughter of Thomas and Dorothy Lord of Hartford, May 6, 1647, was admitted freeman May 21, 1657. — The Court sold to him for £10, March 11, 1662-3, land lying between that of Capt. Richard Lord and of C. John Culick, and at "y^e^ landing place on the Rivulet, both parcels being or lying in y^e^ South Meadow at Hartford." May 19, 1663, the "Gener^ll^ Court" allowed him "eleven pounds out of the Publique Treasury, for and in consideration of his horse that dyed in the country's service." Their children,

John, . born Jan. 16, $164\frac{7}{8}$
John, . " Feb. 19, $165\frac{2}{3}$*
Elizabeth " Feb. 12, $165\frac{5}{6}$
Thomas, " Sept. 14, 1658, m. Deborah Beaumont, Sept. 27, 1681. See *Gen. Reg.* IV. 137.
Amy, born April 3, 1663.
Joseph, " April 3, 1666. — Mary Griswold? May 17, 1692—^2d^Elizabeth d. of Joseph Smith? of Hartford, May, 1695.

His will, of Aug. 1, 1690, names his wife Amy, sons Thomas, Joseph, and James, and d. Dorothy Palmer. Estate, £417 19 10. Mrs. Dorothy Lord, in her will, Feb. 8, 1669, leaves land to her "daughter Amy Gilbert and her children," and a legacy to Elizabeth Gilbert.

Jonathan Gilbert, in 1645,† being about 27 years of age, was a bachelor landholder in Hartford, and soon after married Mary the daughter of John White. They at once entered into the arrangements of life, and the "General Court," with becoming gravity, "recorded" some of the minor details of their social affairs. "Tenth of March, 1646, the names of people as they were seated in the *meeting-house* were read in Court; and it was ordered that they should be recorded, which was as followeth; for the *women's seats* in the middle, 4th seat, Sister Wakeman, Sister Gibbard, Sister *Gilbert,* and Sister Myles."‡ Gilbert had probably arrived in New England at an earlier date, as in April§ of the next year, he was sufficiently familiar with the language of the aborigines to act as interpreter between them and the English government, rendering important service in the subsequent Indian wars and difficulties, by his facility in their language, and his resolute bravery. He was generally selected as the leader in emergencies of danger and importance. He was a man of business, of respectability and enterprise, engaged in the trade and coasting business of the young colonies, possessed of great wealth for that day, and held various civil offices, was collector of the customs at Hartford, marshal of the colony — an office cor-

* An English youth, John Gilbert, was captive among the Nipmuck Indians in 1676.— Drake's *Trag. of the Wilderness.* 40.

† The first framed house in Hartford was built in 1635, by Nicholas Clarke for John Talcott, which proves an extensive settlement there at that date, at least sufficient for protection.—*Ancient MS., quoted in Hon. R. R. Hinman's letter of April* 18, 1850. "If *Connecticut* bee not added to the Government it can be hardly able to support itself. But if it be added, thee revenue will bee sufficient to keep the King wholly out of debt."—Gov. Dongan's *Rep.*, 22 Feb., 1687. "*Doc. Hist. of New York,*" pp. 174, 187.

‡ Bacon's *Hist. Disc.*, 311, 381. § *Connect. Col. Rec.*

responding to that of High Sheriff — a Representative to the General Court, &c. By grants from the government and by purchase, he acquired large tracts of land in the different settlements, which he subsequently divided among his children. In 1653, he received a grant "at the common landing-place in the little meadow, [at Hartford,] to set up a warehouse," which afterward became a station for considerable traffic, in which Mr. Pynchon, of Springfield, up the river, was largely interested. He imported many goods from abroad, and with him Mr. Gilbert was probably associated in business. Andrew Belcher, of Cambridge and Boston, having business there, married Mary, a daughter of Mr. Gilbert, and their son Jonathan was governor of Massachusetts. To appreciate the position and to picture to the mind the life of Mr. Gilbert, we must turn back two centuries, when the colonists were few, unprotected, and widely separated by dense and unexplored forests and unbridged streams, the chief communication being by water, around the coasts. They were as a handful among the original proprietors, the turbulent, uncivilized savages, then in the meridian of their strength and power, who rather sought the English as allies in their feuds than respected them as equals. For this reason, it is said, they invited the first settlers to Connecticut.

Gookin states that the principal sachem (Uncas) lived at or about Pequot, now called New London, "and held dominion over divers petty Sagamores, as over part of Long Island, over the Mohegans, and over the Sagamores of Quinapeake, yea, even all the people that dwelt upon the Connecticut River and some of the most southerly inhabitants of the Nipmug country, about Quinaboag. They were a very warlike and potent people, and could raise 4000 men fit for war, and held hostility with their neighbors that lived bordering upon them to the east and north, called the Narragansets." Their insolent deportment compelled the English to turn their wars to their own destruction, and, in 1638, many of them were destroyed, and the rest reduced to comparative submission. The increasing power of the white men, and their aggressive policy, excited their jealousy, which was manifested by murders, firings, and all the cruelties of Indian revenge. Such was the state of affairs when the Colony availed itself of Gilbert's services in perilous negotiations with these enraged, crafty, and faithless savages. None but a resolute man, of a cool, penetrating eye, a wary watchfulness, and a fearless temper, could gain respect or safety among them. Uncas, like King Philip, was a patriot, and a settled hatred to his new neighbors fired his heart and mind, and filled the breasts of his people. Thus prefaced, the following relation by Mather,* of incidents in 1646, will be understood: —

"There was *Trouble* and fears raised in the Country, by reason of the *River-Indians*, at *Waranoke*, & *Norwoottuck*, who it seems were secretly contriving the Death of those famous Worthyes, Mr. *Hopkins*, Mr. *Hains*, Mr. *Whiting*, Magistrates in *Connecticut* Colony. For I find upon publick *Record*, that complaints and informations about that matter (in September, 1648) were brought before the Commissioners then assembled at *New-Haven*, where an Indian testified that *Sequasson*, the *Sachim* of *Waranoke* [Westfield?] had given him a sum of money on condition that he would murther the gentlemen mentioned.

*"A relation of the Troubles which have happened in New England, by reason of the Indians there. From the year 1614 to the year 1675; wherein the frequent conspiracyes of the Indians to cutt off the English, and the wonderfull providence of God, in disappointing their devices is declared." By Increase Mather. Boston: 1677. pp. 60, 63–66.

"Before the Commissioners convened, Mr. *Haines* had twice sent to *Sequasson:* but he neglected to make his appearance: Wherefore *Jonathan Gilbert* was sent to him again, to signifie from the Commissioners, that they expected Sequassons appearance before them, and to answer what he was accused with, and they promised him free passage both to and from New-haven, withall intimating that his withdrawing himself would greatly augment the suspition of his guilt. The Messenger quickly returned, bringing word, that he could not speak with Sequasson, who he supposed had received notice of his coming by other Indians, and was thereupon fled.

"Whilst the Commissioners were sitting at New Haven, petitions were presented from *Edward Elmere* and some others, complaining that Indians had wilfully and maliciously burned some quantity of pitch, and tarr of theirs, together with some bedding and a cart with its furniture, and tooles, &c., in value about an hundred pounds. And particularly they complained of one *Wasemose*, a *Waranoke* Indian, as guilty therein, as by sufficient evidence they thought they could prove; and that he hath since avoided all the English Plantations; and that he being sent for by a warrant from one of the magistrates of *Connecticut*, fled; but being overtaken and seized by some of the English, he was rescued by the Indians, and the English by them jeered and abused, and particularly *Chickwallop*, Sachim of *Norwootuck:* Whereupon *Jonathan Gilbert* and John Griffin were sent to *Chickwallop* and *Manasanes*. At their return, they informed that they could not meet either with *Chickwallop* or *Manasanes*, but the Sagamores and Indians at *Waranoke* carried it insolently toward the English, vaunting themselves in their Arms, bows and Arrows, hatchets and Swords, some with their Guns ready charged, before and in the presence of the English Messengers, they primed and cockt them ready to give fire, and told them that if they should offer to carry away any man thence, the Indians were resolved to fight, yet the next morning the *Sachim* with some others offered the English Messengers eight Fathom of *Wampam* towards satisfaction and promised to provide more. The Messengers not having anything to that purpose in their Commission, advised the Sachim to send to the Commissioners, but he refused. Hereupon *Naymetayhu*, one of the *Sagamores* of *Waranoke*, who, as before came on Sequasson's behalf, was questioned by the Commissioners about these proud Affronts to the English; at first he denyed what was charged, and excused some part, but one of the English Messengers being present, and he hearing the rest should be sent for, he fell under most of the charge, professing that he intended no harm to the English."

Mr. Gilbert is frequently referred to in the Colonial Records of Connecticut, which, though disconnected, indicate the general current and features of his public life. Thus, in March, 1653, a special warrant was granted to him as marshal, with "power to rayse such considerable forces as hee sees meete" for the arrest of a certain desperado.

* In 1653, and previously, *Stuyvesant*, the Governor of the Dutch Colony of New York, secretly encouraged the Indians to fall upon the English, hoping, by the destruction of the Connecticut Colony, to enjoy more securely their own Territorial title. The Indian Nations having sided with the English or Dutch, were irritated to hostile attacks, which frequently required the attention of the "Commissioners," they supposing Ninigrate, the chief of the powerful Narragansetts, to be in league with the Dutch, while the

* Hutchinson's *Hist. of Mass.*, Vol. I. pp. 180–186.

rest of the Indians were with the English. *Jealousy* of the intrigue of Stuyvesant, and the *fear* of the Southern settlements, induced the Commissioners to make an unjust war on the Indians. Only one of the Commissioners, BRADSTREET, to his honor be it recorded, opposed it, and he was sustained by Massachusetts.

During the hostilities between the Narragansett Indians and the Long Island tribe, in 1654, the Commissioners of the English Colonies appointed JONATHAN GILBERT a Messenger to Ninigrate, the chief of the Narragansetts; who returned, 18th Sept., after a short absence, and brought Ninigrate's answer in the words following: "Having acquainted him that the Commissioners were met at Hartford, and that they had perused the letter sent to the Governor of Massachusetts, he answered, he knew nothing of any such letter, and made strange of it."

Concerning his invading the Long-Islanders, he answered: "Wherefore should he acquaint the Commissioners, when as the Long-Islanders had begun with him and had slain a Sachem's son and sixty others of his men, and therefore he will not make peace with the Long Islanders, but doth desire the English will let him alone, and that the Commissioners would not request him to go to Hartford, for he hath done no hurt. What should he do there? If *your* Governor's son was slain, and several other men, would *you* ask counsel of another nation when and how to right yourselves? and added, that he would neither go nor send to Hartford."

Concerning the Upland Indians his answer was, "That they were his friends, and came to help him against the Long-Islanders, which had killed several of his men. Wherefore should he acquaint the Commissioners with it? He did but right his own quarrel, which the Long-Islanders began with him."

A reply worthy of the chief of an independent and patriotic people who understood their national rights.

April 9, 1657, Jonathan Gilbert, with his brother John, to be joined by "an able man," provided by the "Depuities in Windzor," were instructed by the Court "wth all speed to goe to Nortwootuck & Pacumtuck; that they shall acquaint the Sachem and chief there wth the horrible bloody act [of murder] by some Indians that is lately done at Farmington, and tell them that wee expect that they and all or any other Indians whatsoever shall forthwth send Mashupanan or any other that are accessory to that bloody act, either wth these o^{r} messeng^{rs} or so soone as hee or any other accessory thereto bee p^{r}cured by them, & tell them that wee shall looke at them or any other that detaine Mashupanan or any that are accessorie to this act, as our enimyes."

The Commissioners of the United Colonies in September, 1657, again interfering between the hostile tribes, with the authority of superior strength, peremptorily ordered that Uncas, the chief of the Pequots, be required "to p^{r}mit the Podunk Indians to return to theire dwellings & there to ebide in peace & safety, without molestation from him or his, & that the said Indians bee incouraged & invited so to do, by the Government of Connecticott." "And the Gov. of Conn. is desired to signify to the Pocomtick and Norwootick Sachems on charge upon Vnckas in reference to the Podunk Indians, and on desire of their returne to their dwelling and continuance there in Peace; therefore wee desire and expect they will forbeare all hostility against Unckas till the next meeting of the Commissioners." *

* *Com^{rs} Rec.*

Accordingly, the authorities of Connecticut appointed Mr. Allen and Jo. Gilbert "to goe to Pacomtuck to declare to the Indians the mind of the Comissioners concerning them, and that there bee a letter sent to Mr. Pinchon to assist them in it: but if he refuse, and Mr. Holliock, then they shall desist from further proceeding."

In March, 1657–8, "The listed persons for Troopers presented to and allowed by the court [of Connecticut] under the command of Major John Mason were, in Hartford, Mr. Willis, Mr. Lord, Mr. Thomas Wells, Jacob Migatt, *Jonathan Gilbert*, and nine others." This force was probably raised under the authority of the "Commissioners."

Mr. Gilbert, during this period, was actively pursuing his private enterprises. He may have temporarily resided in Westfield, as the Springfield Town Records, under date of Aug. 9, 1656, mention a grant of lands to Jon^{n} & John Gilbert at Wornoco, [Westfield,] provided "they build a house within one year." The request was renewed and granted, Dec. 10, 1658.

In November, 1659, Mr. Gilbert was appointed to compel the payment from the Farmington Indians of the annual sum which was due for the two years past, amounting to "the full summe of eighty faddome of wampum, well strungd and merchantable." This was in satisfaction for damages from a fire occasioned by them. In April, 1660, Mr. John Allyn and Jonath: Gilbert were commissioned to bound out to Tantoninus, the Sachem of the Potuncks, the lands which he held, remaining unsold to the English, and about which he and Uncas, the chiefs of their tribes, had quarrelled.

In August, 1661, the court granted "to Jonathan Gilbert a farm to y^{e} number of 300 acres of vpland and 50 Acres of meadow, provided it be not preiuditiall" to any other plantation; and Mr. Matthew Allyn, at the same time, received a grant "vpon y^{e} same terms."

After this period, Mr. Gilbert was for several years annually elected to the office of "marshall," and was occasionally a representative to the legislature; but his chief attention was given to the improvement of his estate, and the care of his family, many of whom he lived to see happily and honorably settled in life. He was peculiarly fortunate in his wife, who was remarkable for her prudence and energy, which contributed in a great degree to his success, and who was honored in the lives of her children. He died on the 10th of December, 1682, aged 64; and his wife died July 3, 1700, Æ. 74. They lie side by side in the ancient burial-place at Hartford.

The last Will & Testament of M^{r} Jonathan Gilbert.

In the name of God, Amen. I Jonathan Gilbert of Hartford, in the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut, being in perfect health and Good memory at this time & not knowing the time of my dissolution & sensible of mortality and very desirous to leave a settled peace in my family in respect of these Transitory things, I do constitute this my last will and Testament.

Imprimis — I give & bequeath my Immortal soul into the everlasting arms of my Blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ who hath redeemed me with his precious blood, * * * Also I bequeath my body to the earth by comely burial, and also my wish is, that all my lawful debts be paid and discharged out of my moveable estate, which being done, I do dispose of that little estate which God out of his bounty hath betrusted me with, as followeth.

Item. To my dear & loving wife Mary Gilbert, as followeth, the use of

my dwelling house, [at Cold Spring] homelotts, orchards, Gardens, Barn, Barnyards, outhouses, warehouse, that part of my Island above that which is commonly known by the name of the Dutch Island all Northward, as also that little land I bought of Mr Callsey, as also that land I did exchange with Mr James Richards, as also that pasture I bought of Andrew Warner, also my Wood-lot on the West side of Rocky Hill, all & every part of the forementioned particulars, during the time of her Widowhood & til my son *Samuel* shall attain to the age of Twenty one years, and then my wish is that [she] shall peaceably surrender unto Samuel his quiet possession at the aforesaid house & land save only what is here excepted viz the seller, great kitchen & all the chambers over it & garret over the said kitchen, & half my warehouse that is to say, the South end seller & room over the seller, and half my home lott, the East end of it & half my Barn & half my barnyard for her use with also full use of water both in the well & pond on the lot without any interruption during her natural life & then immediately after her decease * * * all the aforesaid houseing and land I give to my son Samuel Gilbert & his heirs forever, he paying to his brother Ebenezer Gilbert Thirty pounds in Country pay.

Item: I give to my son Jonathan Gilbert one half of the lands in the bounds of Haddam that I bought of Mr James Bates & Thomas Shaylor * * * or twenty pounds in other estates which he the said Jonathan shall choose which is the completing of his portion to what I have done for him already.

Item: I give to my son Thomas Gilbert my house & home lot on the South side of the riverlet in Hartford & my meadow land that I did exchange & had of Mr James Richards to possess immediately after his mother's decease, but the house & lott to possess at the age of One & Twenty years; also I give to my son Thomas that Ten acres of land I bought of Lt Robert Webster, also I give to my son Thomas the lower end of my Island, that is to say, from the upper End of that which is called the Dutch Island which I bought of Captain Richard Lord, with a straight line to the great river West & So East on the meadow lotts, I say all my land downward to him & his heirs forever, he paying to his mother Twenty shillings pr year & Twenty pounds of good hops per year during her natural life.

Item, I give to my son *Nathaniel* Gilbert my farm at *Meriden* with all the house & land thereunto belonging & all priviledges thereunto to him & his heirs forever, & also I give to him Thirty pounds more out of my estate or in Cattle to stock the said farm.

Item: I give to my daughter *Lidia Richelson* Twenty Shillings.

Item: I give to my daughter *Sarah Belcher* Twenty shillings.

Item: I give to my daughter *Mary Holton* Twenty Shillings.

Item: I give to my daughter *Hester Gilbert* one hundred pounds to be paid her within six months after her marriage, or Eighteen years of age, which shall first happen, in Current Country pay or part in household goods, to be prized by indifferent men.

Item: I give to my daughter *Rachel Gilbert* one hundred pounds to be paid her within six months after the day of her marriage or at the age of eighteen years, which shall first happen, in Current Country pay or part in household goods apprized by indifferent men.

Item: I give my son *Ebenezer Gilbert* & his heirs forever all that three hundred acres of land belonging & also that purchase of lands I bought of Captain Daniel Clark lying in *Farmington* bounds, with all the priviledges thereunto belonging, & also that purchase of land I bought of Messecap

commonly called & known by the name of Pagan Chaumischaug: also I give to Ebenezer Gilbert Thirty pounds to be paid him by his brother Samuel Gilbert & twenty pounds more to be paid him out of my Estate to stock his farm with; which fifty pounds shall be paid him at the age of twenty one years, & my desire is that my wife do remember Hannah Kelly and give her twenty shillings, and more as her discretion shall guide her, if she proves obedient.

Item. I give to my grand child *John Rosseter* ten pounds to be paid him at the age of Twenty four years in Country pay. Also my will is, that if any of my children prove disobedient & legally convicted so to be, then my wife hath my power to take from such child forty pounds of his or her respective portions and distribute among the others that are obedient.

Also my will is, that if any of my children are taken away by death before they come to receive their respective portions, then that child's portion to be divided equally amongst the surviving.

Also. I give to my grand child *Andrew Belcher* five pounds in Country pay.

Also. I give my grand child *Jonathan Richelson* five pounds in Country pay.

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I also make and constitute Captain John Allyn, my brother John Gilbert, & Serjeant Caleb Standly to be helpful to my dear and loving wife, whom I make, constitute & appoint sole Executrix & administratrix to this my last will and Testament & desire that she satisfy them for their paynes, whom I intreat to see this my will attended & performed, revoking all former wills, as witness my hand this 10th day of Septr 1674.

Signed; sealed in the presence of us, Jonathan Gilbert [*L. S.*]
John Tallcott
John Gilbert,

"The Inventory was taken 12 feb. 1682–3—Amt. [£2484. 17*s.* 9*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debts, Cash —	113	0	3
Country pay —	68	14	6

Besides some debts owing from the Estate at *Boston*."

The real estate was valued at £1312.

Hartford Probate Records, Vol. IV.

Note. Jonathan Gilbert, Jr. married Dorothy (d. of Rev. Samuel and Hope) Stow, of Middletown. She was born about 1658. He petitioned the General Court — in consequence "of the smallness of the legacy bequeathed to [him] by his father's will made about 8 or 9 years before his decease" — for some further provision from the estate, pleading that he was the eldest son by a first wife,* and contended that "the law of God in Deut. 21: 16, 17, seems plainly to hold forth that the first born may not be disinherited on private affection, or deprived of his birthright inheritance." This will was made when his father's "love and affections to ward [him] run lowest, and his displeasure at the highest;" but since his "return from the West Indies," his father had been satisfied with his conduct; to gratify whom, "in order to settlement, [he] proposed [his] desire to join in marriage with the daughter of the Reverend Mr. Stow, which, after consideration had, [his] honored father and mother did freely give their consent to and advice in." A complete reconciliation was afterwards obtained, — "with that freedom and expression of love which was beyond my expectation." In this petition he refers to "one of the legatees, Nathaniel," — "deceased since the will was made," — and to *Samuel*, "the youngest brother but one." The widow, Mrs. Mary Gilbert, reminded the court, "that [her] husband's estate came not by descent from his ancestors, but was acquired by himself, and was therefore in a peculiar manner at his dispose," &c.

In 1672, at Boston, Mary, widow and sole executrix of Richard Trusedall, lately de-

* "Jonathan Gilbert was maryed vnto Mara Whight, on Jenuary the twenty ninth, one thousand six hundred forty and five." — *Hartf. Rec.*

Mary, the widow of Jonathan Gilbert, made her will, May 23, 1700, as follows: —

"First, I commit and bequeath my soul & spirit into the hand of Almighty God my Creatour by whome of his meer and only grace I trust to be saved free into eternal Rest through the death and merits of my Saviour & Redeemer Jesus Christ; and my body (hoping for a joyful & glorious Resurrection) to a Christian Burial."

"To my son *Thomas Gilbert*, Land in "the North Long Meadow in Hartford."

To son *Samuel Gilbert* Land "called the Pine Field in Hartford."

ceased, had her will drawn by "Mr. John Hull," and it was approved, Nov. 26, 1674. She mentions her "cousin Richard Emblin," "brother John Hood's two children," "Richard, son of Samuel Truesdale," not of age, "other children of Samuel Truesdale." "William Gilbert, Jun^{r}," not of age, son "of my cousin *William Gilbert* sole executor of my will," and "other children by *Rebeckah Gilbert*," his wife [admit^{d} a mem. of Old So. Chh. May 24, 1678,] left "forty pounds" to buy "a convenient tomb stone" for self and husband. She gave "unto Harvard College at Cambridge £40," "Mr. Thomas Thacher, pastor of the third church in Boston £5, to Mr. Seaborn Cotton, £5, to Mr. John Cotton, Senior, £5, to Mrs. Mariah Mather, £5, to the poor of the Old Church £5, to the town of Boston £10, to the third church of Christ in Boston £5." "Mary Mynate, aged about 45 years," was a witness. This *William Gilbert*, in a letter at "Boston, Novem 10th 1680" to his "most Kynd and Loveing Grandfather, Mr. Arthur Bridge living in Sherborn in Dorsetshire," says he has rec'd the "sorrowful lines" informing him of the death of his "Grandmother," and "uncle Thomas, his wife, at one time"—mentions the death of "Uncle William in Barbadoes." "Myne and my wife's Kynd love, to y^{r} self, to Uncle Pond, and Aunt Joan, to Unckle Napper, his sone and daughter and to Margret Emblem and all the rest of my relations" "my Aunt Roe, Robert and Olive Roe, Uncle Phillips children."

—— Gilbert of Mass^{tts} brother of Thomas had a son Samuel of Hebron, Conn^{t} whose son Samuel born Oct 20, 1755, d. Jan., 1846, leaving son Hon. Ralph Gilbert, Judge of Probate of Hebron, Conn^{t}.

Suffolk, Oct 31, 1682. Roger Gilbert *vs.* Isaac Waldron.

July 25, 1721. "George Cradock & John Gilbert of Boston, Merchants."

Robert Augur (bro. of "Nicholas, a learned Physician of New Haven," m. Mary Gilbert Nov. 20, 1673.

Mr. John Gilbert, "a brave honest gentleman," (Savage's *Winthrop*, addenda, ii. 346.) probably a Devonshire man, was at Dorchester with his family in the year 163–, then at Taunton after 1636, with sons Thomas, John, and Giles; was the first Deputy from Taunton to the Gen. Court of New Plimoth in 1639, and died before 1654, survived by his wife Winnifred.

Thomas Gilbert m. Jane, da. of Hugh Rossiter "ancestor of the Connecticut Rossiters.*" This was the first marriage in Taunton. He was a freeman in 1643, Deputy from Taunton in 1651.

Thomas Gilbert went to England in 1653, never returned, and d. there in 1676, his daughter Jane married Samuel Williams, and has many descendants.

Thomas Gilbert had children born at Taunton, Hannah, Sept. 28, 1677, and Thomas, July 11, 1781. Of this family were the Gilberts of Rochester, New York, and those wonderful children Lucretia H. and Maria Davidson, of Plattsburg, New York. Of this lineage was Col. Thomas Gilbert, the loyalist, a captain at the siege of Louisburg in 1745, and father of the very respectable and wealthy branch of the family in Nova Scotia. He died in 1796, aged 82 years. †

Bristol County, April 12th, 1703, before Thomas Leonard, Esq., one of her Majesties justices, "*Giles Gilbert* aged seuenty years & upwards" Deposed that he well remambered that his "Brother Thomas Gilbert sometime of Taunton deceased, was in the actual possession of "Rockey Nook" was in controversey betwixt Mr. George Gooding and my cozen [nephew] Thomas Gilbert (as his own p^{r}ticular Lott of Meadow for fifty years agoe last past, and upwards, being long before there was any South purchase of land made. And since my 2^{d}. cousin Thomas Gilbert hath possessed "the same" in his own right from his father Thomas Gilbert."

* The alliances of both the Taunton and Connecticut Gilberts with the Rossiter family, and of the Springfield and Connecticut Gilberts with the Marshfield family, and other intermarriages, furnishes a presumption that they were of one common stock, though documentary evidence of their consanguinity is not preserved.

† Sabine's *American Loyalists*.

To son *Ebenezer Gilbert*, in Hartford, "lot of Thomas Butler dec'd."

Item: "*to my grandson Thomas Dickinson* Twenty pounds of Current Country pay, and also all that is due to me from my Sonne in law Charles Dickinson for the bringing up & keeping of my said grandson Thomas Dickinson; the said sum of Twenty pounds to be paid when he is 21 years of age.

"All the rest of my estate to be divided into 5 equal parts — to sons Thomas and Ebenezer Gilbert — daughters Lydia Chapman, Rachel Marshfield "and the children of my dau[r] of Sarah Belcher dec'd to be accounted as one."

"And further the $\frac{1}{7}^{th}$ part of the $\frac{1}{5}^{th}$ part legacy here given unto Lydia Chapman shall be paid to the sons of my late grandson Jonathan Richelson dec[d] when they attayne to twenty one years of age. And my will also is, that if any of the children of my daughter Sarah Belcher dec[d] shall happen to dye, before they attayne, the sons to Twenty one, the daughters to Eighteen years of age, the part of such child shall be equally divided to the survivors;

"And my mind and will is, that the rest of the fifth part Legacy given to my daughter Lydia, not otherwise disposed of to the heirs of the late Jonathan Richardson dec[d], shall be equally divided amongst the children of my said daughter Lydia, which she had by her husband Richardson dec[d], minors. Mr. Richard Edwards & my son Ebenezer Gilbert to be joint Executors." "My good friends the Worshipful Caleb Standley Esq & Mr. John Haines to be the Overseers" to advise my Executors and see that this my last will is performed. Witness — Simon Booth. Samuel Parsons, Caleb Stanley Sen[r]."

An inventory of the estate of Mrs. Mary Gilbert, who dyed 3 July, 1700, was taken on the fifth of the same month, and amounted to the sum of £562. 13. 7. Jonathan Bull, and Samuel Isham, Sen[r]. were the appraisers. — *Hartford Probate Records*, Vol. V.

Mrs. Gilbert, born about 1626, was the fourth child of Hugh Welles, one of the founders of Hartford, and niece of the Rev. and Hon. Thomas Welles, governor of Connecticut, who died at Hartford, January 14, 1660, aged 62. Hugh, with his family, removed to Hadley about 1650. His widow, Frances ———, married Thomas Coleman, and died in 1678, bequeathing property to the family of her son Thomas Wells, deceased, to her son John Welles, of Hatfield, and his children, and to her daughter Gilbert; and appointed her son Jonathan Gilbert the executor of her will. Thomas and Hugh were the first and second sons of Thomas Welles,* a zealous Puritan and wealthy merchant in London, of the Welles family, in the county of Essex, which was "a branch of the noble family of Wells in Lincolnshire, who were barons of the realm." Incurring the suspicion of the Commissioners, he escaped to this country when about 60 years of age, and was soon followed by a numerous family of sons.

Samuel Welles, the Boston banker of Paris, and John Wells, the eminent advocate, of New York, were of this family.

The following tabular form exhibits a brief statement of the family of Jonathan and Mary (Wells) Gilbert: —

* "A Brief General History of the *Welles* or Wells Family, by Albert Welles. 1848." pp. 25. For some of the statements there made authorities should be given. — Morant's *Hist. of Essex County, England.*

2d MARY, sister of Thos. & John Wells and d. of Frances Colman by her 1st husband, HUGH WELLS. She died July 3, 1700, aged 74.—*Gravestone at Hartford.*

= JONATHAN GILBERT, landholder in Hartford, in 1645; died Dec. 10, 1682, aged 64. See pp. 229–232.

= 1st "Mara Whight," dau. of John White, mar'd Jan. 29th, 1645, at Hartford. She d. about 1650.

- Hester or Esther. = Charles Dickinson. — Thomas.
- Lydia, born Oct. 3, 1654. = 1st Jon'n Richardson, of Stonington. 2d = Chapman.
- Rachel mar'd 22 Sept. 1686.
- Josiah, son of Samuel Marshfield.*
- Mary = John.
- 1st John, eldest son† of Dr. Brayan Rossiter; he d. in Sept. 1670. = 2d Samuel Holton, of Northampton.
- Nathaniel, of Meriden, died unmar'd.
- Ebenezer, of Kensington.
- . . . Hester, born Nov. 13, 1694; d. Feb. 13, 1711–2.
- Samuel, of Colchester, mar'd Oct. 2, 1684.‡ — Thomas, b. Sept. 30, 1699.
- Mary, d. of Saml. Rogers, of New London.
  - Jon'n, b. June 29, 1685.
  - Samuel, b. Feb. 5, 1687.
  - Nathaniel, b. Sept. 26, 1690.
  - John, b. April 12, 1692.
  - Mary, b. Dec. 2, 1696.

Jonathan, of Middletown, born May 11, 1648; died Feb. 1, 1698. = Dorothy, died July 14, 1698.

- Mary. 18
- John. 15
- Jon'n. 12
- Nathl. 5
- Sarah. 3
- Ebenezer. posthumous 5 months.

Mrs. Mary Trowbridge. 2d = Captain THOMAS GILBERT, of Boston. = 1st Lydia, d. of Lieut. Samuel Ballatt, of Charlestown; mar'd Nov. 26, 1689. d. March 23, 1708. Her sister Elizabeth, b. Feb. 24, 1673, m. Nov. 25, 1693, Hon. Jonathan Dowse, Esq. of Charlestown, "One of his Majestie's Council," "Justice of the Sup. C. of C. P. for Middlesex," &c.

- Thomas, b. 24 Aug. 1697.
- Lydia, b. July 9, 1707.
- John Pomroy, m. Dec. 13, 1711.
  - Lydia, b. Aug. 25, 1717.
  - John, b. Nov. 1712.
- Samuel, b. Feb. 21, 1698–9.
- Anna, b. July 9, 1692; d. Mch 6, 1707–8.
- Mary, b. May 20, 1694. = Robert Johnston, m. Jan. 19, 1715. "by Dr. Inc. Mather, Prest.," 5 May, 1721; died at Watertown, June 10, 1740.¶
- Elizabeth, b. Feb. 7, 1702; m'd = Ebenezer Thornton, bapt. Jan. 12, 1690; son of Timo. of Boston, who d. 1726, aged 79, and gr. son of Rev. Thomas Thornton, of Yarmouth, who d. at Boston, Feb. 15, 1700, aged about 93.—Sewall's *Ms. Journal.*

Sarah Gilbert, b. July 25, 1651; m. July 1, 1670.§ = Andrew Belcher, born at Cambridge, Jan. 1, 1647; was of Boston in 1677; d. Oct. 13, 1717, æ. 70; "the most opulent merchant of his time in Boston."‖

Timothy, born Feb. 2, 1726; removed to Ipswich about 1774; d. 4 Sept. 1787. = Eunice (d. of James and Sarah Cogswell) Brown, of Ipswich; m. April, 1761.**

THOMAS GILBERT.††

‡‡Mrs. Teal, 2d of New Jersey. = Hon. JONATHAN BELCHER, born Jan. 1681. Harv. Col. 1699; Gov. of Mass. & New Hampshire, 1730–1741; Gov. of New Jersey 1747–1757; d. Aug. 31, 1757. Founder of "Princeton College." There is a portrait of him in the rooms of the Mass. Hist. Soc.‖‖ = Mary, d. of Wm. Partridge, Lt. Gov.§§ of New Hampshire; b. 19 Oct. 1685, m. at Portsmouth, Jan. 4, 1705 -6; d. 1736, Oct. 6, at Boston.

Anna = Noyes, of Boston.

Andrew, born in Hartford, 1671–2.

Elizabeth = Oliver.

Martha d. Feb. 11, 1748, aged 62. = Hon. Anthony Stoddard, Esq. Harv. Col. 1697.

Sarah = Foye, of Charlestown.

Mary = Geo. Vaughan, Esq., Lt. Gov. of New Hampshire, &c. Son of William by Margarett, d. of Richard Cutts, Esq. of Portsm. N. H.

Andrew, Har. Col. 1724. Mem. of the Council; d. at Milton, Mass. Jan. 24, 1771, aged 65.

¶¶*Jonathan*, H. C. 1728. Counsellor, Ch. Just. and Lieut. Gov. of Nova Scotia; d. 29 March, 1776, æ. 65. = a sister of Jer'h. Allen, sheriff of Suffolk.

Hon. Andrew, of Halifax.

* * * = Lyde, Esq.

* Margaret, sister of Josiah Marshfield, mar'd Ebenezer Parsons, and was the mother of the Rev. Jonathan Parsons, of Newburyport.

† The Rev. John Cotton, of Plymouth, m. a dau. of this family.

‡ July 23, 1705, he was of Hartford, and sold lands to his brother Thomas of Boston. See also page 287 of *Gen. Reg.* 1848.

‖ See Harris' *Cambridge Epitaphs*, 173. *American Quarterly Register*, May, 1841, p. 441, for memoir of him.

§ "Mr. Andrew Belcher was marryed to Mrs. Sarah Gilbert, daughter of Mr. Jonathan Gilbert of Hartford, the 1st July, 1670." — *Hartford Records.*

¶ "Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton, who departed this life June 10, 1740, æt. 37 years." — *Gravestone in Watertown ancient burial-ground.*

** "Here lies what was mortal of Mrs. Eunice Thornton, wife of Mr. Timothy Thornton, who died Sept. 13, 1784, in the 55th year of her age." — *Ipswich burial-ground.*

†† *Genealogical Register*, 1848, pp. 276–8.

‡‡ "We hear from Burlington, in New Jersey, that His Excellency JONATHAN BELCHER, Esq., Governor of the Province, was married there on the 9th day of this month, to Mrs. TEAL, a lady of great merit and a handsome fortune." — *The Independent Advertiser, Boston, October* 3, 1748.

§§ Gov. from Jan. 1697 to July 26, 1703.— Belknap's *History of N. H*, 152–160, 227.

‖‖ Rev. Mather Byles, D. D. Oct. 13, 1736, styled himself "Your Excellency's affect't nephew," in a poem addressed to Gov. Belcher "on the death of his Lady."

¶¶ "London, January 22. We hear from Cambridge that, Friday last, Jonathan Belcher, Esq. of the Middle-Temple, Son to his Excellency Governor Belcher, was created Master of Arts in a full Senate, by virtue of His Majesty's Mandatory Letter to that University." — *The Boston Weekly News Letter, March* 30, 1733.

Thomas Gilbert, a younger son of Jonathan, of Hartford, by his second wife, Mary Wells, was born about 1655, and, early in life, imbibed a love for business and nautical pursuits, from the scenes at his father's "warehouse,' in Hartford, where a principal part of the foreign and coasting trade of the settlements on the Connecticut was transacted. His brother-in-law, Andrew Belcher, a young merchant, frequently visited that river with his vessels, for purposes of trade, and doubtless favored young Thomas's choice of a maritime life. Mr. Belcher became one of the wealthiest men in New England, was one of the council of safety, in 1689, and a councillor from 1702 to 1717. Gilbert soon commanded one of Belcher's ships, and his history is chiefly connected with naval affairs. His name occurs occasionally in the purchase or sale of lands, mostly derived from his father's estate, and a portion of which was inherited by his children.*

The few facts preserved show him to have been a brave and successful officer, and a leading man in the primitive navy of the colony, during the early French wars, and the universal license of the ocean, when Turks and Algerines, the common enemies to all, skimmed over every sea for prizes. This navy was a fit nursery for the bravery and nautical skill exhibited three-quarters of a century later, by Manly, Whipple, Tucker, Waters, and others, who appeared from the New England shores, rendering signal service in the war of the revolution by their hardihood and skilful seamanship.

By the deposition of Andrew Belcher, August 15, 1690, it appears that "the ship 'Swan,' Capt. Thomas Gilbert, commander,"† had recently arrived from "her late voyage to London." The "Swan," a heavy ship, carrying an armament of twelve guns and a crew of eighteen or twenty men, was under his command for several years. The tonnage of vessels was much smaller at that time, as may be seen by the diminutive size of the ships employed in the long and perilous expeditions of Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, and even by the large vessels of a century later, compared with the noble ships engaged in like service in modern times; the number of those competent to take charge of them was comparatively small, and the hazards, at that day, real as well as apparent, gave an importance and dignity to such a command, greatly diminished by the immense progress of maritime science and commerce.

During King William's war, occurred some of the bloodiest passages in the annals of New England. In 1692,‡ the French sent out a squadron to sweep our commerce from the Eastern seas, already covered by hordes of piratical rovers, who were committing fearful depredations. The memory of their atrocities on the ocean was lost in its waters, while the miseries on shore were recorded.

Gilbert was not idle during this period, and he, with his associates,

* September 25, 1683, he was at Charlestown, transacting business with Stephen Codman, on account of Edward Johnson. His name is in "A List of the Taxable Inhabitants of Boston, for the year 1695." July 23, 1705, land is conveyed to him by his brother Samuel, of Hartford. John Pomroy, of Boston, husband of Lydia Gilbert, and Ebenezer Thornton of Boston, and his wife, Elizabeth Gilbert, unite in conveying some of their father Thomas Gilbert's land.— *Gen. Reg.* Vol. II. pp. 277, 8.

† "John Coleman, aged 20 years or thereabouts, testifies that, being in the service of *Capt. Thomas Gilburtt*, in the Swan from London, he was Impoured by s^{d} Gilbert to receive what money was due for freight and passengers. Accordingly, I demanded of Richard Weeks, a passenger in said ship from London, aforesaid, being due from him five pounds ten shillings, which s^{d} Weeks s^{d} he had desired Mr. Seth Perry to Pay to Capt. Gilburt's order for him, which s^{d} Perry accepted to pay & afterwards discounted with Mr. Andrew Belcher upon y^{e} acct of Thomas Gilburt. July 1, 1690."

‡ Waterson's *Cyclopædia of Commerce*, 611, 613.

§ Williamson's *History of Maine*, I. 634, 637.

captured the French ship "Saint Jacob," in the St. Lawrence or "Canady River," at the very entrance of the French possessions, and brought her safely to Boston, where she was condemned as a prize to the captors. This gallant and hazardous exploit was, as usual, a private enterprise, there being technically no government navy; but, having the approbation of the government, it was considered a national undertaking.

The next notice of him is happily preserved in a memoir of the Rev. Dr. Colman,* who in July, in the year 1695, "imbarqued for London (by the will of God)† on board the ship Swan, Capt. Thomas Gilbert, Commander," (then about thirty-nine years of age,) whose fortitude and self-possession in difficulty, manly and generous heart, and desperate and unflinching defence against a superior force, will appear in the following narrative: "On the fourth day the vessel sprang a leak, and the water was heard to pour in on the Starboard tack, which alarmed the sailors. When the winds blew a storm afterward, Mr. Colman governed his fears by looking on the Captain, Mate, and Sailors, to discover what he saw in their faces. When they came into the warm seas a Dolphin, which they had marked with a Scar on his shining back, kept company with the ship for ten or twelve days together, feeding on her bottom.

"At the end of seven weeks a *Seeker* made after them, and soon came up with them. She was a privateer of 20 guns and 100 men, a light and fleet ship; the 'Swan' was heavy laden — 12 guns, and 24 men, sailors and passengers together. The Swan's company bore their broadsides and volies of small arms six or seven times that afternoon, defending themselves and annoying the enemy, but were taken the next morning, having their Boltsprit shot away, and the Mast's rigging so torn and cut, that the masts fell all together, an hour after, by which means the ship became a perfect wreck, and the Company were much looked at by the French when they came into port. On the quarter deck of the Swan four out of seven were wounded, and one mortally. Mr. Colman was much praised for his courage, when the fight was over. He fought like a Philosopher and Christian and prayed 'while the Boatswain and others made Frolick and sport of it.' 'A young *Rake*, a passenger on board, that lisped at Atheism, and spit at Religion every day of the Voyage,' when the great Guns roared, would have crept through the boards to hide himself, and when the firing ceased for a moment, he flew down into the Doctor's room and was seen no more till the ship was taken. The sea was very rough during the engagement. When the 'Swan' struck, the French boat came on board, and the Lieutenant took all the crew's money, and put them into the boat. The crew and some of the passengers were plundered of everything, even their clothing, and then dressed in a few rags of the Sailors. Mr. Colman was put down into the Hold of the Ship, among his

* Life of Benjamin Colman, D. D. 5–13.

† Dependence on the Divine Being was recognized in all the common affairs of life, and if the frequency of such reference affords a safe criterion, the sentiment of piety has died with the fathers. In this view, the following "Bill of Lading" presents a contrast with the modern form. It contains the name of God four times: "Shipped by the Grace of God in good Order and well-conditioned by *Edward Gray of Boston, Ropemaker* in and upon the good Brigantine called the William and Andrew [Pepperell], whereof is Master under God for this present voyage William Pepperill, and now riding at anchor, in the Harbor of Boston and by God's Grace bound for Rotterdam," &c. . . . "On acco't & Risque of Mr. ffrancis Gray, Upholsterer in Rotterdam," &c. . . . "And so God send the good Brigantine to her desired Port in safety, Amen. Dated in Boston 26th February 1704–5." "ye quantetey Reseued ye qualetey on Known ℔ mee *Wm. Pepperrell.*"

ragged companions, none of whom knew him till he spoke to them, and they looked at him with astonishment. Mr. Colman bid them divert themselves; "upon which Mr. Grant, the mate of the Swan, (a very grave, prudent, and pious man, fifty years old,) answered with joy: What, Mr. Colman, do you call upon us to be cheerful? What made us sad was to think you would die here, of sorrow; if we do but see you cheerful, we shall all be merry. Madam Allaire, one of the passengers, being brought on board the Captor, about half a day after, entreated that Mr. Colman might be with them in the Great Cabin, or that he might be allowed to see them, — when Madam saw him at the door, half covered with rags and cold, she ran to him and wept upon his neck, & he wept with her. Captain Gilbert burst into tears, and so did Captain Anderson, and his Lieutenant and passengers, moved by the scene. He sat an hour with them, drank, and returned comforted to his hold. Ten days after, they cast anchor before Belle Isle, and proceeded thence up the River Loire, towards the city of Nantz. In the way they were put on board a great hulk, the King's store-ship, and in the morning went to Nantz. The vineyards were very pleasant on the banks of the river, and the fruit delicious to them after so tedious a voyage. After some two months imprisonment within the walls of Dinan, they were freed by an exchange of prisoners with England."

On the 4th of May, 1702, Queen Anne's war with France was declared,* and the Massachusetts fishing vessels suffering much from the depredations of the Canadian French cruisers, a fleet was equipped to rid the Eastern seas of their presence, and incidentally to suppress the barbarities committed by the Indians along the shore.

Mr. Belcher was this year chosen to the council for the first time, and under the new administration, just commenced by Gov. Joseph Dudley,† doubtless exerted an influence in favor of his brother Gilbert, who, in the following letter, copied from the original manuscript, is virtually represented as the commander-in-chief in this expedition: —

" Cambridge. Juli 11 1702.

S^{r}

Yesterday in the afternoon I kist his Excellency's hand and part^{d} from him at the Entrance of the Rode to Ipswich from Salem. He comanded me to present his Service to yo^{r} Hon^{r}. He designed to lodge at Ipswich & to Proceed to the Province of N. Hampshire this day. I hope this day will prove as it promises this morning. His Ex^{cy}. also comands me to acquaint yo^{r} hon^{r} that he hath ordered Capt Thomas Larrimore wth his Crew in M Marston Sloop to *ioyn Cap^{t}. Gilbert in their Cruise* and that It is his Ex$^{cy's}$ Pleasure that it shal be Inserted in the article, w^{ch} your Hon^{r}. is to project for them, That if their vessels shall happen to be parted by stress of Weather &c. then w^{t}ever prizes either of them shal take whilst they are parted and have not recovered one the other shall be at the sole benefit of the Captor, and not lyable to a division amongst the Crews or Companies of both vessels. The Enclosed his Ex^{cy} hath Order me to transmitt to yo^{r} hon^{r}.

My Coz^{n} Nath^{l} Hubbard hath not had the Small pox and prays that w^{n} he hath your Hon ^{s}. Order to go to the Castle the Boat may be also order'd to receive him at Charlestown, He fearing it will not be Safe to go over to

* Williamson's *History*, Vol. II. p. 33. Graham's *History U. S.*

† Joseph Dudley had arrived only one month before, June 11, 1702, with his Commission as Governor of Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Boston. I thank your hon^r. for all yo^r. Goodness & friendship to me and pray yo^r. Hon^r. to be assured that I am and Always will be

Yo^r. Hon^rs. most humble Serv^t

JOHN LEVERETT.*

for The Hon^ble
Isaac Addington Esq^r.†
Boston.

What was accomplished in this expedition, and of the remainder of Capt. Gilbert's life, the writer has not learned. His wife Lydia, the mother of his children, whom he married November 25, 1693, was the daughter of Lieut. Samuel Ballat,‡ a respectable citizen of Charlestown, who died November 12, 1708, aged 71. The remains of Captain Gilbert and his wife rest together in the "Granary burial-ground," in Boston, not far from the principal entrance, on the right hand, as shown by their gravestones, from which these inscriptions are taken.

Here lyes buried y^e
Body of Cap^t Thomas
Gilburtt departed
This Life Feb^y y^e 9^th,
17$\frac{8}{9}$, in y^e 64 year
of his age.

Here lies y^e body
of Mrs. Lydia, wife of
Capt. Thomas Gilbert
departed this life
March y^e 23, 1707–8 in
y^e 38 year of her age.

* Justice of the Superior Court, and President of Harvard College. See in the *Register*, Vol. IV. p. 134, the valuable memoir of the Leverett Family, by Dr. N. B. Shurtleff.

† Chief Justice of the Superior Court. See *Register*, Vol. IV. pp. 117, 118.

‡ "To be Sold the Estate of Samuel Ballet, late of Charlestown, deceased, viz. A dwelling House with a large Garden, Ship building Yard, with a Wharff well accommodated for that or any other Improvement, it being bounded on Charles River; as also three and one half acres of Pasture Land, in Nichol's Field (so called) all lying and being in the town of Charlestown: If any persons are minding to buy the same or any part thereof, they may apply themselves to *Jonathan Dowse* of *Charlestown Esq.*; or *Mr. Ebenezer Thornton of Boston*, and know further." — *Boston News Letter*, May 29, 1721.

Lidia d. of Samuel and Lidia Ballatt born 27 Oct. 1670. Lidia wife of Samuel Ballet d. May 1, 1678. Samuel Ballatt adm^d to Chh. Aug. 15, 1680. And on the "22^d 6mo. 1680" John, *Lydia*, and Elizabeth, children of Samuel Ballatt, were bap^d." — *Charlestown Rec.*

"Capt. Thomas Gilbert & Mrs. Mary Trowbridge, were mar^d by y^e Rev^d Increase Mather, Sept. 24, 1708."—*Boston Rec.*

Here lyes buried the
body of Mrs. Mary
Gilbert, Relict of
Capt. Thomas Gilbert
aged 63 years
Died Decemb. y^e 30, 1733.

—*Copp's Hill Bur. Gro.*

Jonathan Dowse and Elizabeth Gilbert m. 25 Nov. 1693. "She died Jan 23, 1700–1, aged 26, leaving 2 sons.